



Fairfax Jubil-Aires Barbershop Harmony Chorus **Guest Orientation**



Atlantic District 2009 Southern Division Plateau AA Chorus Champions

A fellowship of men devoted to the art of *a cappella* barbershop singing, committed to excellence in musical performance, and good will in the community.

Welcome!

Welcome to the Fairfax Jubil-Aires!

We're delighted to have you with us!

Whether you are a novice or experienced singer, we offer you the opportunity to experience many hours of fun and camaraderie, and to develop your musical skills. If you like to sing, you'll find that no other organization can match the Barbershop Harmony Society (BHS)! If you like the combination of good fellowship, four-part harmony, and fun, no other BHS chapter compares with the Fairfax Jubil-Aires!

As you experience the joy of barbershopping, we're ready to answer your questions and look forward to your future membership in the Fairfax Jubil-Aires! Please visit our website at: <http://www.fairfaxjubilaires.org/> where you can find this Guest Orientation booklet, and our New Member Orientation booklet, which includes information about our new members group (Fairfax Association of Rookie Barbershoppers, or FARBs), FAQs, and other details.

Our Vision

A fellowship of men devoted to the art of a cappella barbershop singing, committed to excellence in musical performance and good will in the community.

Our Mission/Goals: *Create a rewarding experience for our members and audience, and preserve and master the barbershop harmony art form*

- Have fun!
- Continuous improvement of our singing skills and musical performance
- Enjoyable and productive rehearsals
- Become known in the community for delivering quality entertainment
- Demonstrate command of a broad and varied repertoire
- Attract new members to improve the vitality and quality of our performance
- Emphasize opportunity for quartets

A Typical Evening with the Fairfax Jubil-Aires

We meet every Tuesday evening from 7:30pm to 10:00pm at Lord of Life church, 13421 Twin Lakes Drive, VA 20124. Members generally arrive between 7:00 and 7:30 PM. We begin by warming-up, using familiar songs and interesting vocalization techniques to sharpen our singing skills. Then we place ourselves in the capable hands of our Chorus Director who spends the next hour or so taking us through our current repertoire or working with us in learning new songs. We pause briefly for a short business meeting and introduce and welcome our guests. We continue practice with a variety of activities, which could include:

- A series of special interest group sessions, which could emphasize vocal techniques, warming-up, singing tags, conducting, or any of a number of other barbershopping topics.
- Help our members to qualify for their "Polecat" pin, which means that they have demonstrated that they can sing 12 recognized and popular barbershop standards, such as "Let Me Call You Sweetheart" or "My Wild Irish Rose."
- Chapter quartets may perform, or we might even create some impromptu quartets from members interested in experiencing the joy of singing four-part harmony, carrying their part in a quartet.

Our official evening ends at 10:00pm, however, many of our members get together for an “Afterglow” at a nearby emporium for refreshment, camaraderie, and just plain fun singing.

Quartetting

BHS was founded on the basis of barbershop quartet singing. As you progress, you will likely find that singing in a quartet can be even more rewarding than chorus singing. It is certainly more challenging. If you are interested in joining or creating a quartet, our chapter will do everything possible to support you.

We Compete!

Each year we enter the Mid-Atlantic District’s Southern Division chorus competition, which generally occurs on Memorial Day weekend in May. We compete with other choruses from Virginia, the District of Columbia and Maryland. Our objective is to score high enough to qualify for the District competition each fall. The work is hard, but the rewards are fun and worthwhile.

The Show

We all love to put on a good annual show, which takes place during the spring. Some of our shows have focused on themes -- such as Movies, Old West or Roaring Twenties -- while others have highlighted our quartets or novelty numbers. Recently we have featured high profile quartets such as “Old School” and “Maxx Factor” and groups like “Soundworks.” This is a chance for all of us to cut loose and give a wider audience a sense of the real joy that we experience when we produce high-level barbershop harmony. We follow the show with a cast party, referred to as the “After-Glow.” The visiting show performers and guests are invited and share in food, drink and more song. It is always great fun.

How Do I Learn the Music?

Our chapter provides several means to learn the music in addition to meetings. We distribute hard copies of all repertoire songs. We produce and distribute learning tapes and CDs that have each part separately emphasized so you can hear your part along with the other three. In addition, MP-3 and Noteworthy© versions are distributed and available on our website. (Noteworthy Player is a free download that plays music files produced by some of the members).

All barbershoppers are connected by knowing 12 basic, old-favorite, songs. These are known as “Polecats” and give every barbershopper anywhere 12 songs in common with every other BHS member. They are easy to learn and fun too. Knowing them helps to overcome the stage fright that we all experience while singing in front of others.

New members also automatically become a member of the “FARB’s” which stands for the “Fairfax Association of Rookie Barbershoppers.” This group of new members meets on the first and third Monday’s of each month at a FARB member’s home, to learn the customs, traditions, definitions and basic songs, including “Polecats”, of barbershopping. Expressions such as “sing bright” (shade the note on the high side) or “sing dark” (shade a note on the low side) are defined and come to life, under the direction of an experienced barbershopper.

OK, How Much?

You need to know that it will take a few dollars to take part in our fun, but we really believe that

you'll find the small investment to be an excellent value.

As a new member of the Society, your first-year membership dues will be approximately \$144 (which includes your annual international BHS dues, enrollment fee, district dues and chapter dues). Your membership dues include a subscription to *The Harmonizer* -- the Society's bi-monthly magazine, the *Mid'l Antics* -- a bi-monthly bulletin from the Mid-Atlantic District -- and our very own bulletin, the *What's Happening*, published weekly to keep all of us up to date on the chapter's activities and coming events. There are also installment plans and special rates available. All in all, it is a very affordable avocation.

There are just a few additional costs. We have a dress uniform (a black tuxedo, with accessories). These uniforms are the property of the chapter, and are provided to members without cost; however, every member is asked to provide the chapter with a reasonable refundable deposit. Members are also expected to provide their own formal shirt at a cost of \$20-\$30. We also have red long sleeve shirt with logo that costs \$30.

What Do I Get For My Dues?

Here's where we focus one last time on what you can expect from the time that you spend with us.

First, you will have the opportunity to make **new friends**. Barbershoppers come from all walks of life, joined by a common desire to improve their musical skills and to share in the joy of singing together. You may find that the person singing next to you is a business associate, a colleague working with you in another community organization, or even a relative. More importantly, that person -- in the spirit of barbershop fellowship -- will be glad to extend the hand of friendship to you each and every week.

Next, membership as a Jubil-Aire also gives you a chance to **serve the community**. As Jubil-Aires, we frequently sing at nursing and retirement homes in our community. We additionally sing at the City of Fairfax tree lighting ceremony, the annual Fourth of July parade and other community events.

Improving your musical skills is another benefit of chapter membership. We have an outstanding chorus director and some wonderfully talented barbershoppers who excel at our craft. Access to **musical coaching and counseling**, educational materials, and training is also available from the Society at the district and international levels. In fact, the Society sponsors a multi-faceted training program for all interested members at its international headquarters during the summer. Whether you are a highly experienced singer or are new to the field, after a period of time, you will find yourself singing with greater confidence and knowledge. In fact you may well be surprised by the singing you will be able to produce, and the sounds that you will be able to make with others. Your voice will help our chapter continue to ring the chords that truly **keep the whole world singing**.

Finally, if you enjoy working with groups and in leading other men, you may find that **leadership opportunities** within the chapter, or at other levels within the Society, will become available to you. Whether focusing on program content, membership recruitment and retention, or musical or financial issues, there are challenges galore for the member who steps up to the leadership plate.

While all of the above reasons are important, none is more important than just **having fun!** Whether joining an impromptu quartet, learning a new song, or taking part in competition at any level, we are committed above all to the sheer joy of barbershopping.

What Does the Chapter Expect of You?

As Fairfax Jubil-Aires, and as active members of the Society, we have a few important expectations of our members.

- First, we expect that you will attend our Tuesday evening meetings reasonably regularly. Singing well together takes both practice and listening to the other voices in the chorus. Like any other skill, it requires fairly regular practice to become confident.
- Second, we expect that you will adhere to the Society's Code of Ethics. For instance, we will not use our BHS membership for personal gain.
- Third, from time to time, we expect you to volunteer to help out in fundraising events that offset our expenses.
- Fourth, we sing at many different venues during the year. We expect you to support and participate in these activities to the extent that you can.
- Finally, we want you to approach barbershopping in the spirit of the Society, to preserve the barbershopping tradition, to promote Quarteting, and, above all, to have fun by losing your cares in the camaraderie and musical accomplishment of our chapter.

Important Contact Info:

If you have any questions about membership in the Fairfax Jubil-Aires, feel free to contact any member of the chapter or the 2010 officers listed below.

President	Phil Merkel (h) 703.758.0342 philip.merkel@verizon.net
Exec. Vice President	Lowell Holloway (h) 703.978.4712 lholloway3@cox.net
Membership	Aaron Watts (h) 703.793.7166 awatts78@cox.net
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